

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6498

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1028

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: NEW EXTRADITION BILL

REF: SAN JOSE 1013

1. I SAW ACTING FONMIN SOLORZANO LATE THIS AFTERNOON, MARCH 14, AND COVERED THE POINTS INDICATED IN PARA 1 REFTEL. SOLORZANO WAS OBVIOUSLY NERVOUS, AND PROFESSED SOME IGNORANCE ABOUT DETAILS OF THE BILL. HE DID ARGUE THAT PRESS AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION CRITICISM IS DISTORTING THE BILL'S OBJECTIVES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHEN LEGISLATIVE ACTION IS COMPLETED, EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL HAVE TEN DAYS TO CONSIDER BILL AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS WOULD OFFER FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH US. I SAID WE WOULD APPRECIATE THAT. HE ALSO PROMISED TO GET BACK TO MEON LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF BILL FOR OUR TREATY.

2. EMBOFF SPOKE THIS AFTERNOON WITH ACTING ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT EDGAR ARROYO EMPHASIZING OUR CONCERNS ABOUT BILL. ARROYO, WHO HEADS ODUBER'S PLN DEPUTY GROUP, APPEARED RESPONSIVE TO OUR CONCERNS AND ADMITTED THAT HE AND HIS FACTION ARE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO SUPPORT IT. ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE HE URGED THAT EMBASSY TRY TO REACH ODUBER TO APPRISE HIM OF OUR CONCERNS.

3. ARROYO TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WILL TRY TO AVOID FINAL VOTE ON BILL FOLLOWING THIRD DEBATE THIS EVENING IN ORDER TO
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CARRY DEBATE OVER UNTIL NEXT WEEK. IN VIEW HIS INITIATIVES

THIS MATTER, EMBASSY JUDGES THAT ARROYO IS SYMPATHETIC
TO OUR POSITION AND WOULD WELCOME COUNTERVAILING PRESSURES
THAT MIGHT HEAD THIS BILL OFF.

4. I AGAIN URGE THAT AN APPROACH TO ODUBER IN PUERTO
RICO BE MADE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE SATURDAY FOR PANAMA. THIS
OF COURSE MUST BE HANDLED WITH DISCRETION, PREFERABLY BY A PERSON
KNOWN TO ODUBER IN ORDER TO AVOID IMPLICATIONS OF UNDUE PRESSURE
WHICH MIGHT BOOMERANG. THE MATTER IS HOWEVER SUFFICIENTLY
IMPORTANT IN MY VIEW TO WARRANT THE EFFORT. IN THIS CONNECTION
WE BELIEVE THAT APPROACH TO ODUBER SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE
OBSTACLE WHICH THIS LAW IF ENACTED MIGHT PRESENT FOR THE
CONSTRUCTIVE RE-DEFINITION OF OVER-ALL US/CR RELATIONS
WHICH ODUBER HIMSELF DESIRES.
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